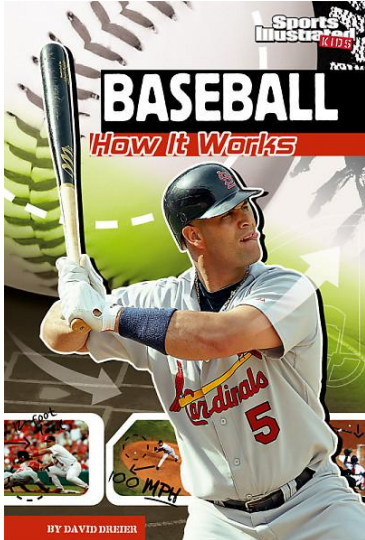




The Stared Review

This is a monthly newsletter that will let you know the titles that our review committee felt were outstanding.



Baseball How It Works David Dreier
Capstone Press The Science of Sports
978-1-4296-4020-6 Language Arts, Science

This book goes beyond the basic how to of playing baseball and explains the science concepts such as velocity and momentum as it relates to the sport. This sports series will appeal to higher readers who are interested in the science behind the sport. I learned interesting facts from this series and I think students will appreciate the text with corresponding photographs which goes beyond the typical sports series.

Lani Nordeck

10/4/2010

Big Pets Catherine Ipcizade
Capstone Press Big 978-1-4296-3997-2
Math Concepts, Language Arts
This book ranks popular pets from rabbits to horses by size and provides brief information about each one. I think this book will be popular with the earliest readers because they all love to read about pets. Size of each of these pets is emphasized but a diagram showing each pet in relation to the others is needed to be able to compare them. Lani Nordeck 10/3/2010



Scary Ghosts Jim Whiting
Capstone Press Really Scary Stuff
978-1-4296-3967-5

This book provides 7 short, concise stories dealing with strange, mysterious, and scary events from witches, and ghost dogs to haunted cemeteries. This series is perfect for those early, 1st and 2nd grade readers that are looking for something "scary."

This book will satisfy the young readers desire for something scary, while asking them to question, "did this really happen?" The colorful cover with what appears to be a ghost will attract their attention and the interior pictures and text will keep them interested. Some of the stories include a "Fact or Fiction" page providing arguments for the possibility of a haunting and a more logical explanation.

The book could possibly be a bit too thought provoking or scary for the more sensitive younger readers, but they are sure to have the curious ones talking to their friends about what they have just read.

Susan Irwin 9/30/2010



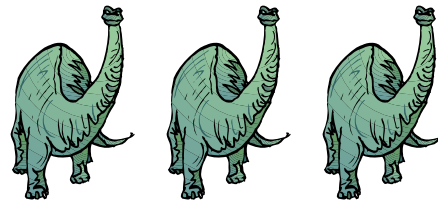
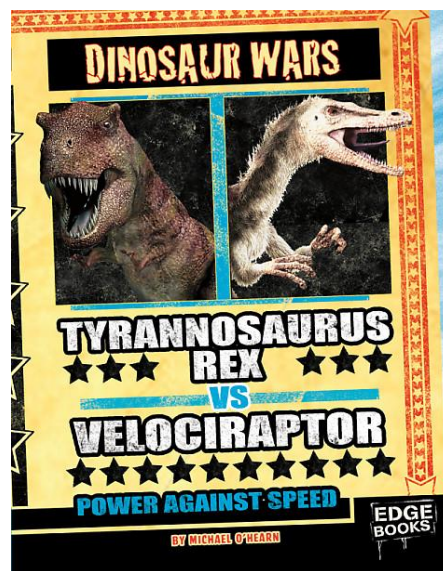
Tyrannosaurus Rex vs. Velociraptor

Michael O'Hearn

Capstone Press Dinosaur Wars 978-1-4296-3937-8

Two different species of dinosaur are featured in each book where the author compares their size, defenses, and weapons; and then ultimately pits the two against each other in a fictitious, nail biting battle.

This is a unique, innovative way to introduce students to the lives of these pre-historic beasts, while getting them excited to read. These books will keep 3rd-6th graders reading to the end to find out which dino will prevail. The books offer enough information about the two featured dinosaurs to be informative without being overwhelming. The information is presented in a format that makes learning fun and interesting. The series features captions with "Fierce Facts," useful definitions, and colorful pages with exciting illustrations. The author's writing style is fast paced and exciting for older readers with sentence structure simple enough for 3rd graders. Susan Irwin 9/30/2010



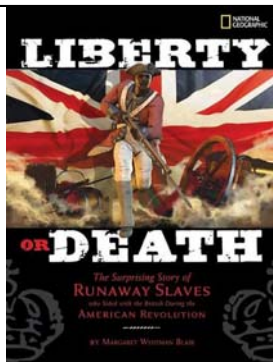
Liberty or Death: The Surprising Story of Runaway Slaves Who Sided With the British During the American Revolution

Margaret Whitman Blair

National Geographic Society

National Geographic Children's Books 9781426305900

Little-known account of runaway slaves who sided and fought with the British in the American Revolution. Surprising and informative account, done in readable format with remarkable illustrations. Very well written account of a fascinating subject. Supports your collection of African-American history. A well-researched account of slaves in Virginia who, beginning in 1775, fled to the British, and the heart-breaking struggle of survival in the aftermath. Told in colorful reproductions of period paintings, prints, and documents illustrate the clearly written text. Includes a time line, source notes, and lists of recommended books, places to visit, and Web sites. A fine and singular addition to American history collections. Grades 5-8. Reading Level 9-12. Nancy Avalon 10/4/2010



This IS Rocket Science: Three Stories of the risk-Taking Scientists Who Figure Out Ways to Explore Beyond Earth

Gloria Skurzynski

National Geographic Society National Geographic Books

9781426305979

Explores the past, present, and future of space travel. Very well written and wonderfully illustrated. The compelling text—vetted by NASA scientists—is a combination of history, science, human drama, and fascinating look into future challenges and experimental voyages. Comprehensive list of websites to further satisfy your interest.

Nancy Avalon 10/4/2010

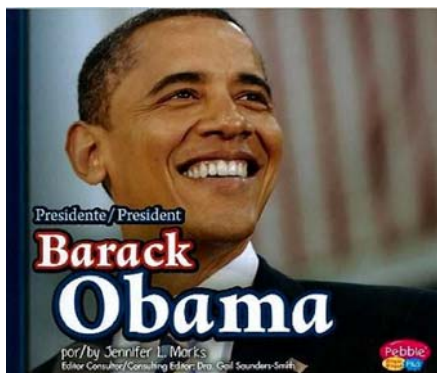
Beyond the Bars: Exploring the Secrets of a Police Station

Tammy Enz

Capstone Hidden Worlds

978-1-4296-3377-2

Readers are able to explore "behind the scene" rooms in a police station that few people get to view. Rooms such as the weapons room, the dispatch center and the sally port. Fun information that many students will want to read about, it will be hard to keep this series on the shelves. Well presented and written information on places that people may wonder about. In this series there are 4 books (Under the Lights: Exploring the Secrets of a Sports Stadium, Behind the Double Doors: Exploring the Secrets of a Hospital and Behind the Racks: Exploring the Secrets of a Shopping Mall, and Beyond the Bars: Exploring the Secrets of a Police Station). Each short chapter includes an on page glossary and nicely sized photo's, to help explain what the chapter is describing. Included in each book is a Table of Contents, a Glossary, an Index, a "Read More" section, and recommended internet sites. Juliana Johnsen 9/17/2010



BILINGUAL

President Barack Obama

Jennifer L. Marks

Capstone Press/ Pebble Plus

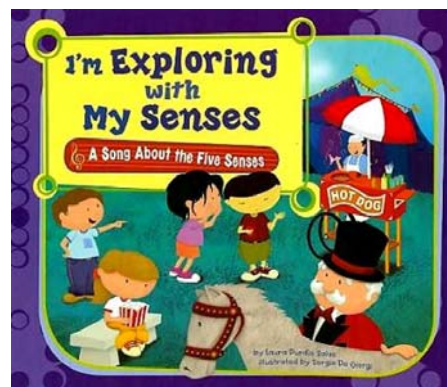
978-1-4296-4594-2 Biographies

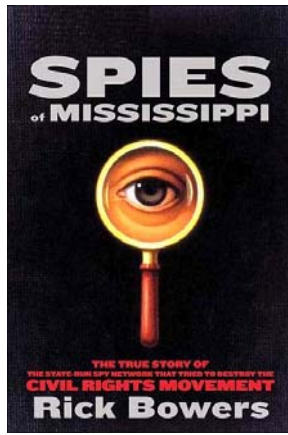
A short biography, presented in English and Spanish, for emergent readers. A good addition for the biography section. Large print, easy sentences, and well placed photo's will make this a good choice for an early biography and/or an ESL learner. Included is a timeline, on each page, to assist with putting events in chronological order. Also included is a page titled Facts About (Pres. Obama) and a page with a list of the Presidents of the United States. Some text features included in the book are a Table of Contents, a Glossary, an Index, and internet sites. Juliana Johnsen 9/17/2010

I'm Exploring with my Senses

Laura Purdie Salas Picture Window Books
Science Songs 978-1-4048-5764-3

Using original lyrics to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad", explains how the 5 senses work. Great use of a circus as a place to learn about the 5 senses. One or two double-page spreads describe each of the 5 senses using simple text with colorful illustrations. Lyrics and informative boxes present a complete picture of the senses. Glossary, index and music included as well as downloadable audio file. Karen Forbes 9/27/2010





Young Adult

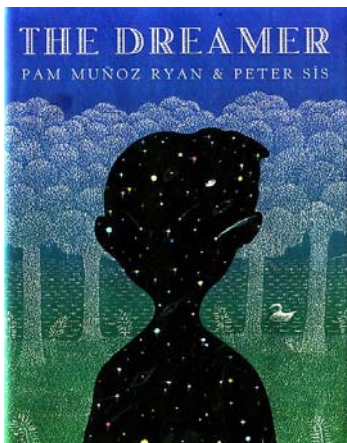
Spies of Mississippi : the true story of the spy network that tried to destroy the civil rights movement

Rick Bowers National Geographic Society
978-1-4263-0595-5

U.S. History; Civil Rights Movement; Segregation
Story of the Mississippi spy network that tried to destroy the civil rights movement. Amazing timeline of events in a very corrupt Mississippi in the early '60s."Short chapters are very effective in exposing the timely events taking place. This book adeptly describes and gives a real feel for Mississippi in the late '50s and early '60s - the height of segregation. Concludes with ""What Happened Next"" to bring closure, as well as extensive bibliography, quote sources and index." Karen Forbes Sept. 29, 2010

Eye of the Monster Michael Dahl
2010 Stone Arch Books Dragonblood
978-1-4342-1928-2 Adventure, Fantasy

After being bullied, Ren sees fear in his eyes and makes a big decision when he sees that same fear in the eyes of his tormenters. Quick adventure that will grip students. The short sentences and large font make this very approachable to young readers, though I would put it higher than RL 1.7. Very quick-paced with color illustrations and illustrated words that almost make you feel the words on the page. Discussion questions and writing prompts included as well as glossary. Karen Forbes



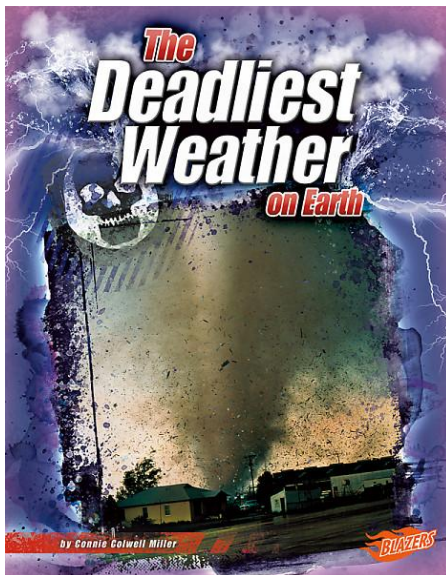
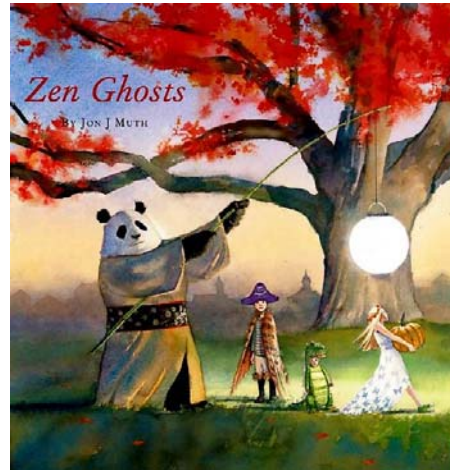
The Dreamer Pam Muñoz Ryan
Scholastic 978-0-439-26970-4

Fiction, Poetry

A young Chilean boy named Neftali must overcome the tyranny of his father. He lives deep in his imagination and is a collector and a daydreamer. Against all odds, he becomes one of the most widely read poets in the world, Pablo Neruda. The story is complimented by the pen and ink illustrations of Peter Sis. A beautiful book that encourages the reader to ignore the doubt and believe in the dream. This is a beautifully written book with very lyrical prose and poems throughout. It would be a nice read-a-loud or a book for a child and parent to read together. Vanessa Hoffmann

Zen Ghosts Jon J Muth
Scholastic Press 978-0-439-63430-4
Halloween

Stillwater, Michael, Addy and Karl get ready for Halloween. On Halloween night, Stillwater has them meet him for a ghost story with an unusual twist. A very nice Halloween story with a critical thinking element. A very nice story that includes a Zen koan. I wasn't sure I liked the book a first but after reading the Author's note about Zen koans, I appreciated it more and think that students would also enjoy it as well. I do think that without reading the Author's note, a reader would be thinking "huh?" Also, I was a bit disappointed after reading it because I expected haikus like the first two Zen books. I do wish the author had worked one or two in along with the



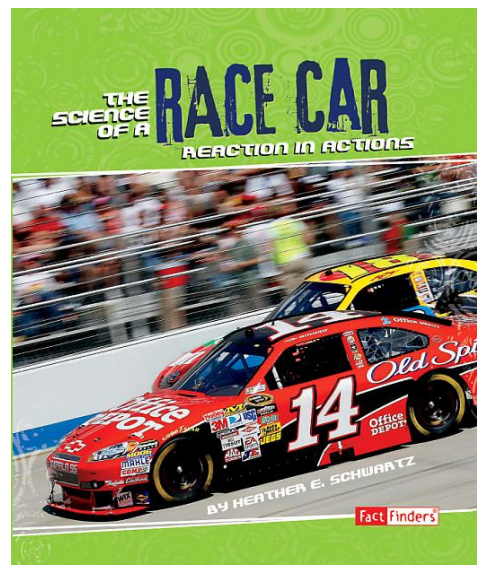
The Deadliest Weather on Earth

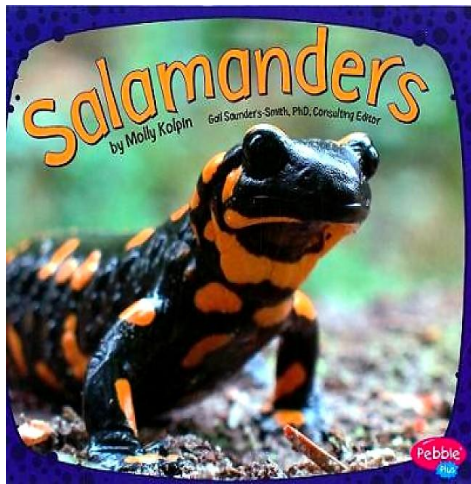
Miller, Connie Colwell Capstone
The World's Deadliest 978-1-4296-3934-7 Lightning, hurricanes, twisters, all of these can be deadly. You are about to find out why. Use the word "Deadliest" and you have caught the attention of every boy!! Terrific. The weather book in a series of World's Deadliest books. Great pictures, easy information, While it provides a minimal amount of information is does provide a wide range of different weather conditions. The pictures are amazing. Would recommend this series for your library. Kids will have something to start with and want to learn more. Carolyn Major 10/14/2010

The Science of a Race Car Reactions in Action

Schwartz, Heather Capstone Press 978-1-4296-3955-2
Science

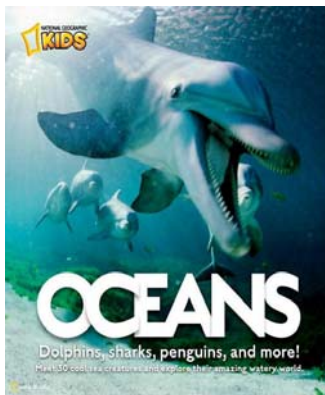
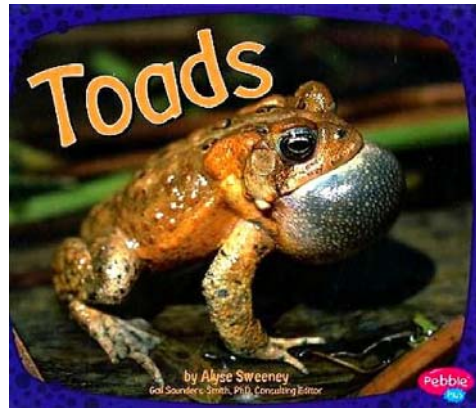
The race is on and expert drivers make it look easy to speed around the track. But without science, they'd be left in the dust. Check out the science that makes a race car run. This series is great. This book uses race cars and the science of racing to explain reactions. Kids will pick this up just for the pictures. I learned something, was captivated by the pictures, Even the "see for yourself" activities were interesting and easy to do. They really explained in simple terms what was going on with our reactions to different movements. Carolyn Major 10/14/2010





Salamanders Kolpin, Molly Capstone
978-1-4296-3990-3 Life Science - 1st
grade- offspring characteristics, survival
characteristics. 2nd grade-habitats
Describes the salamander including life
cycle, where they live and physical
characteristics. Great book for primary
students. This book will be used for both
1st and 2nd grade. It is aligned to the Grade
Level Expectations for science. It has all of
the non fiction text elements. Photographs
are dynamic. Claire Shadow 9/29/2010

Toads Sweeney, Alyse
Capstone Amphibians
978-1-4296-3991-0 "Life Science
1st grade offspring characteristics, survival
characteristics 2nd grade - habitats"
Describes the toad including life cycles, how
they look, where they live and what they do."
Great book for primary students learning
about animals" This book will be used for
both 1st and 2nd grade. It is aligned to the
Grade Level Expectations for science. It has
all of the non fiction text elements.
Photographs are dynamic. Claire Shadow
9/29/2010



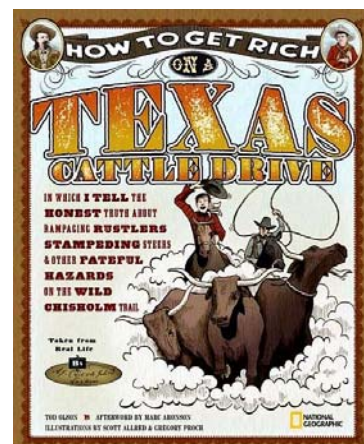
Oceans Dolphins, sharks, penguins, and more! Rizzo,
Johnna National Geographic Society
978-1-4263-0686-0 Oceans & Ocean wildlife, living
things, animal interaction with other animals and
environment.

An overview of many marine animals is given including
interesting facts and beautiful full page photographs.

This is an eye catching book as well as a spring
board for more in depth study of many marine animals.
Beautiful photography is the star of this book. The text is
not overly wordy and will keep a readers attention. The
fact boxes contain lots of interesting information about the
animals and how they interact with their environment. At
the back are 20 ways you can protect the ocean. This
would be a good non fiction read aloud. Dennise Taggart
10/1/2010

How to Get Rich on a Texas Cattle Drive Olson, Tod
National Geographic Society 978-1-4263-0524-5 States
and Regions, Westward Expansion, Cowboys, Cattle
Drives

This non fiction book combines first person narrative
about life as a 1800's cowboy with historical photographs
and factual captions. Kids will be learning without even
knowing it. The narrative is entertaining and informative.
The layout will capture the attention of even the most
reluctant reader. The photographs are informational and
the illustrations tell an lively and exciting story. I would
recommend this book to anyone studying the history of
the west. Dennise Taggart 9/29/2010

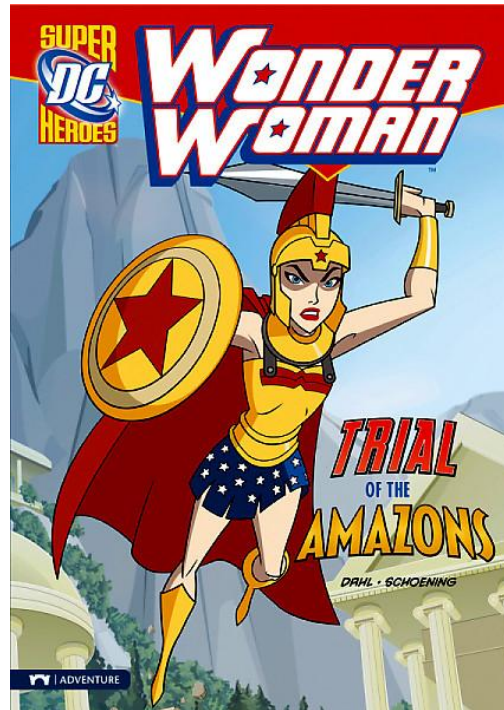


Wonder Woman Trail of the Amazons

Dahl-Schoening2010 Stone Arch
Books DC Super Heroes
978-1-4342-1883-4

Fiction

Amazon Princess Diana discovers a plane crash and goes against the Amazon rules to save a mortal. She proves herself the strongest of the amazons and is allowed to take the mortal back to where he lives. Well done introduction to where Wonder Woman came from and why she is now a crime fighter. Full page illustrations and fun, bold, comic words, add to this chapter book for 2-4 grade readers. Though written very simply, this title is a good introduction to Wonder Woman. Stephanie Shelton
9/30/2010



Foul, Filthy American Frontier

Capstone Press Disgusting History 978-1-4296-3957-6

Non-Fiction US History Social Studies American Frontier"

An interesting look at pioneers as they travel west. Take a look at food, travel and living conditions of American frontiersmen. Very interesting look at the American frontier and how the settlers lived. Full color time line found at the beginning gives the reader a quick look at events. The disgusting parts of life will engage reluctant readers and the foul facts give readers short explanation of the photos. Stephanie Shelton 10/1/2010

Heather Schwartz

